

## **Response Rates for the 2010 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll**

The preliminary estimates for the Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll were released on August 30, 2011. All unit response rates were above the U.S. Census Bureau's standards threshold of 60 percent. The Census Bureau also has a standard on the Total Quantity response, which is a measure of the portion of the estimate of interest that is accounted for by responses. The rate must be above 70 percent. For example, the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR) for the number of full-time employees in a state must be above 70 percent, or at least 70 percent of the estimated total number of the full-time employees must come from responses. Because the data for 2010 come from a sample of governments, the numerator and denominator of the TQRR must be weighted.

The TQRRs for 2010 were usually above the 70 percent standard with some notable exceptions. There are four states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Jersey) that are noncompliant for at least one local government TQRR. See the accompanying Table A. These states are noncompliant on Part-time (PT) Payroll and/or PT Employment.

There are ten states (Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont) that have state government TQRRs that do not meet Census Bureau TQRR standards. In all states, the state government TQRRs were affected by poor response from one or two large state colleges/universities. Consequently, the data user should beware of education data from these states.

For the 2010 Survey, more extensive non-response follow-up efforts were taken to try to obtain data from the nonrespondents identified as critical prior to release of the survey's final estimates in January 2012.

**Table A: Noncompliant Response Rates for the 2010 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll

State	FT Employees	FT Payroll	PT Employees	PT Payroll	Total Employees	Total Payroll
State and Local Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Maryland	80.7	76.9	72.7	64.4	79.0	75.9
Massachusetts	81.1	81.6	68.7	73.6	78.2	81.0
Nebraska	78.0	77.7	72.7	65.8	76.6	76.8
Oklahoma	89.4	85.7	77.9	67.3	87.1	84.6
Oregon	78.5	76.9	64.0	65.1	73.9	75.4
Rhode Island	82.9	81.5	50.8	55.7	75.9	80.2
Vermont	81.1	79.1	79.4	68.3	80.6	78.2
Local Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Connecticut	80.0	76.6	72.0	63.5	78.0	75.7
Maine	83.2	83.7	65.0	74.3	76.6	82.7
Massachusetts	77.5	77.9	60.4	64.8	73.9	77.1
New Jersey	82.5	80.2	71.4	69.4	80.0	79.6
State Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Maryland	74.8	70.9	45.4	29.0	70.5	67.1
Missouri	75.8	67.7	47.6	42.5	69.1	65.7
Nebraska	58.6	52.7	21.8	17.0	48.2	49.2
New Mexico	80.2	79.7	56.1	60.3	74.2	78.1
Ohio	73.8	71.2	56.8	56.3	67.2	69.5
Oklahoma	82.6	77.9	65.1	51.0	77.3	75.3
Oregon	64.2	58.1	10.3	17.6	48.1	53.8
Rhode Island	74.5	73.7	26.5	33.8	61.1	71.0
Utah	65.3	59.4	75.0	69.6	68.5	60.5
Vermont	76.2	73.3	84.5	62.4	77.8	72.6